

YOUR STUDENT GUIDE



ZWOLLE

By Inga, Carla, Luzie, Marit, Annika, Leonie & Jana



TABLE OF CONTENTS

02	Welcome to Zwolle	3
03	Exploring Zwolle	4
04	Student Life	10
05	Where to find housing?	15
06	Windesheim Campus	16
07	Day trip ideas	19

02 WELCOME TO ZWOLLE

Looking for a student city that has it all? Welcome to Zwolle – one of the Netherlands’ best-kept secrets for student life. Zwolle is located near the IJssel and Zwartewater rivers and east of Amsterdam. With its cozy cafés, buzzing festivals, green parks and bike-friendly streets, Zwolle offers the ideal balance between focused study time and an exciting social life.



Fun facts about Zwolle:

- Capital city of the Dutch province Overijssel
- The inhabitants are called “Blauwvingers” (blue fingers)
- In Zwolle approx. 30.000 students study
- Zwolle is a Hanseatic city

03 EXPLORING ZWOLLE

Where can I buy ...

...Groceries?

The biggest supermarkets are:

Lidl

Klein Grachtje 18, 8021 JC
Zwolle
Monday to Wednesday, Saturday
8:00 – 20:00h
Thursday & Friday 8:00h – 21:00h
Sunday 14:00h – 18:00h

Aldi

Gasthuisdijk 1, 8041 AE Zwolle
Monday to Friday 8:00h – 21:00h
Sunday 14:00h – 18:00h

Albert Heijn

Klein Grachtje 16, 8021 JC
Zwolle
Monday to Friday 8:00h – 21:00h
Sunday 14:00h – 18:00h

Jumbo

Veemarkt 20, 8011 AH Zwolle
Monday to Friday 8:00h – 21:00h
Sunday 14:00h – 18:00h

Weekly market in the heart of Zwolle

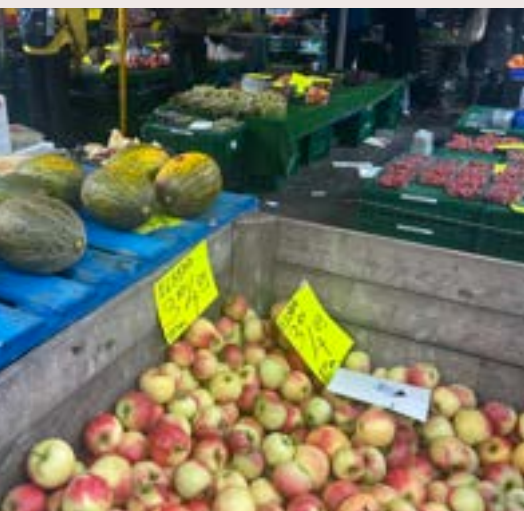
Local & fresh

Friday: 8:00h – 13:00h

Saturday: 8:30h – 17:00h

Always worth a visit and a good and cheap alternative to the regular supermarket; the local market in Zwolle offers a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, fish, bread and delicious Dutch cheese. If you do not come to buy food, have a look around one of the many flower or clothing stands of the market and get some traditional Kibbeling for lunch.

Don't bring cash, but bring a big bag for your groceries!



... Clothes and home items?

Main shopping street:

Zwolle's main shopping street starts off the Grote markt and is the Diezerstraat. You will be able to find local shops as well as the big brands such as Zara, H&M or Costes.

Everything for your home:

Shops like Hema, Xenos or Action provide many bathroom, kitchen or other utensils that you need for your new home.

There is also an Ikea 10min from the centre of Zwolle.

Second hand shop:

Stichting Kringloop

Nieuwe Veerallee 12

8019 AG, Zwolle

Mo.-Sat. : 10am-6pm



WHAT TO SEE IN ZWOLLE?

01 Peperbus

The Peperbus is a 75 meters high basilica church from the 14th century. You can see the tower from nearly everywhere in the city and it shines beautifully at night. Get a good look over the city from the highest point of the tower for a price of 5 euros. Be aware of the opening hours and to be there sometime before the church closes.

Open: Monday – Friday 13:30–16:30, Saturday 11:00–16:30, Sunday closed

02 Grote Kerk

The big church is in the heart of Zwolle. It is a meeting and orientation point when you are new to the city. Sometimes doors are open and one of the many exhibitions can be visited for free. Make sure to check it out once in a while if you walk by. Sometimes there are also concerts. A little café to relax and second hand books can be found in Grote Kerk, where the historic atmosphere and cozy vibes make it the perfect spot to unwind after exploring the church's grandeur.

03 Sassenpoort

The gates of Zwolle have protected the city in the 14th and 15th century against invaders. It was connected to the city walls and now the only remaining entry from old times. The tower can be visited.

Open: Monday– Friday 13:00–17:00, Saturday/Sunday 11:00–17:00

04 Museum de Fundatie

The huge, shiny egg-shaped roof which can be seen from many angles of the city, is the biggest museum of Zwolle. The changing art exhibitions are worth a visit and some permanent paintings by famous artists like Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Citroen can be seen throughout the year. Entrée is 7 euros for students and every first Friday evening of the month, there is free entrance.
Open: Tuesday- Sunday 11:00-17:00, Monday closed

05 Van der Velden in de Broeren

The bookstore, which previously was a church, is not only a beautiful place to spend some time in looking for books, calendars or gifts but also to have coffee and cake. International books are available here. Don't forget to check out the remains of a corpse which was found while renovating the church. The bones can be found in the ground next to a stone wall and a realistic wax figure of the person is portrayed on the highest level of the church, just under the roof.
Open: Tuesday- Saturday 9:30-18:00, Monday 12:00-18:00, Sunday 12:00-17:00

HOW TO GET AROUND?



Zwolle is a compact and bike-friendly city, making it easy to explore on two wheels or by public transport. Here's how to navigate like a local:

- **By Bike:** The most popular and efficient way to get around! Rent a bike from OV-fiets (at the train station) or local shops. Second-hand bikes are often the cheapest option—check Marktplaats, the Roestug bike shop on Windesheim campus or student Facebook groups.
- **By Bus:** The city's bus network is reliable and affordable. Buy tickets directly with your debit card or via the 9292 App. A single ride costs around 2-7euros depending where you go. However using a student OV-chipkaart (Dutch public transport card) offers discounts.
- **By Train:** Zwolle's central station connects you to cities like Amsterdam (1h) and Utrecht (45m). Book tickets on NS.nl or use your OV-chipkaart. Pro tip: Travel outside peak hours for cheaper fares!
- **Walking:** The city center is pedestrian-friendly, so go and explore while walking through the charming streets.



PARKS AND GREEN AREAS

Parks in Zwolle are beautiful. There are parks for every occasion, be it a football match, a birthday party, a bbq party, quality time alone or sunbathing with friends. Going to the park releases stress, is healthy, sustainable and cheap if you bring your own food and drinks.

Park de Wezenlanden

It has the biggest open grass area in Zwolle which is great for playing any kind of sports. There is a skating ground right next to it as well as a beach restaurant/café. Walk a bit further over the bridge behind the restaurant and enjoy some shadow and quiet time below the trees. Walk even further and visit the small petting zoo Kinderboerderij Wezelanden. In the months of May and June, you can see little piglets, peacock chicks and little lambs.

Park Spolderbos

This park is more of a forest than a park and is located along the railways behind Windesheim. The quiet atmosphere in nature is ideal for a relaxing, picnic or reading a book. The area is very big, therefore it is advised to look at it as a whole by for instance riding the bicycle so that you can get a glimpse of the diverse spots that the park offers. If you need some time alone or a more private space, this is the park to go to.



04 STUDENT LIFE

Do you know any good food spots?



HUMPHREYS

(\$\$-\$\$\$)

A restaurant offering a variety of dishes in a stylish setting. Many students work here, adding to its lively and welcoming vibe. Perfect for a special night out.



MISOJI

(\$)

Known for its amazing Asian bowls and affordable prices, Misoji is a student favorite. Quick, tasty, and great to have some food with friends.



JAFFA JAFFA

(\$\$)

A restaurant with street food dishes and a nice atmosphere. They have a focus on sharing plates, making it ideal for groups.

WHAT DUTCH FOOD SHOULD I TRY?

01 Cheese

In case you haven't noticed it yet, the Dutch are world famous for their cheese. The local Zuivelhoeve store, which is located at the Grote Markt, has its shelf filled with cheese up to the roof. And Gouda is not the only cheese to try, you can choose from any imaginable type and flavor for your cheese such as whiskey, beer, beetroot or walnut. And if you don't know what to get, just try out some of the free samples in store.

02 Kibbeling

Another typical Dutch food which you should not miss out on is Kibbeling. The delicious deep-fried fish fillets are usually served with a garlic sauce or mayonnaise and will definitely be worth a try. For the real fish lovers among us, a freshly caught herring served with onions is a must to eat.

03 Sweet Dutch side

The Dutch also have a sweet side: stroopwafels. The dough is a mix between a cookie and a waffle in between two of the waffles is a layer of honey and caramel. This treat is not only the perfect souvenir but also the best way to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Another sweet delicacy are the poffertjes. Tiny, warm, and fluffy pancakes topped with powdered sugar.

AND WHAT IF I WANT TO GO OUT FOR DRINKS?



DE HETE BRIJ

A cozy bar with a warm, inviting atmosphere and live jazz evenings that bring the place to life. Perfect for a relaxed drink or a night of jazz.



DAVO

Known for its great beer selection, Davo is a local favorite. With live music evenings, it's the perfect place to spend a night out with friends.



FLYING HORSE

The go-to spot for students! With a lively atmosphere, dancing, and student discounts every Thursday, it's the perfect place to enjoy a night out.

ANY CAFES?

Whether you're looking for a quiet study spot, a cozy hangout with friends, or a great cup of coffee, Zwolle has a café for every mood.

To study:

- **Stadskamer:** A café in the city's library in the heart of Zwolle, perfect for both relaxation and productivity. The library is on the second and third floors, offering a peaceful space to study alone or with friends. It's a great spot for a coffee or light meal while studying.
- **Douwe Egberts:** Ideal for students needing a study-friendly environment, this café is open on Sundays, though it can get busy. They have a menu of classic drinks and snacks.

And if you're craving just good coffe...

- **Rojas Specialty Coffee Bar:** Coffee lovers rejoice! This spot serves direct-trade coffee from their own farm, ensuring a rich and ethical brew. A must-visit for specialty coffee enthusiasts.
- **Café Del Primo:** Bring a touch of Latin America to your day with this café. Enjoy a lively atmosphere, delicious coffee, and even salsa classes on some evenings. During the day it also offers a nice atmosphere to study.



IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO WITH MY FREE TIME?

Lakes

Zwolle has some nice lakes to go for a swim in summer. For example the Agnietenplas, next to a campground and great to swim in. Or at the Wijkthmenerplas, where they also have festivals in summer. Head to one of the lakes for a refreshing swim or a relaxing day by the water. Pack a picnic and enjoy the serene surroundings or for the more sport people: pack a volleyball.

Boat rental/stand up paddle

Rent a stand up paddle at Sup Sup Club Zwolle and explore the city's scenic waterways (13-16 euros an hour). Or to rent a boat to explore the waters with friends or family at Bootenverhuur or Boothuren Zwolle.



Cinema

Catch the latest films at the bigger cinema Pathé Zwolle or for a more cozy experience and vibe go to the Filmtheater Fraterhuis.

Bowling

Go bowling with friends at Bowlen and Zo in Zwolle, perfect for a group trip and fun afternoon! Around 42 euros per bowling alley

05 WHERE TO FIND HOUSING?

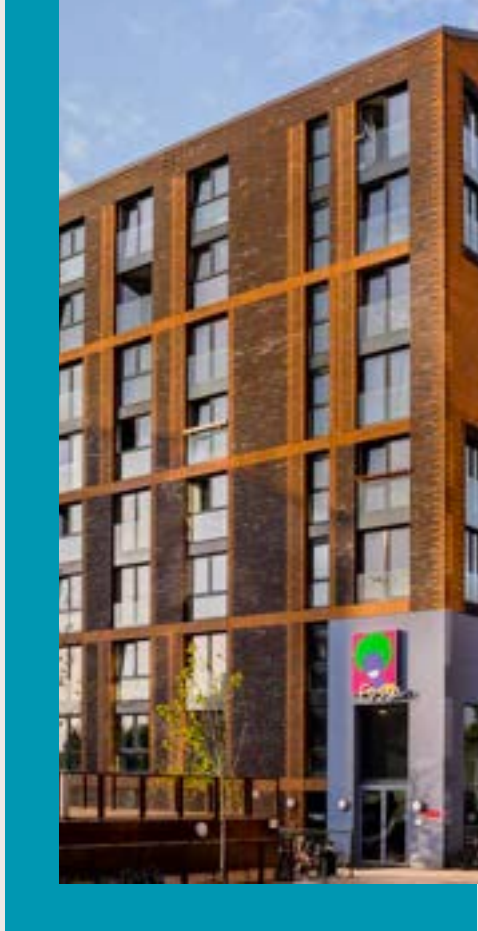
Looking for tips?

Here you can find some useful tips on finding housing on the Windesheim Website:



Pro tip!

Register at SSH as early as possible so you have a better chance to find long term housing with SSH:



06 WINDESHEIM CAMPUS



The Windesheim campus in Zwolle is a vibrant and student-friendly space, blending modern facilities with green areas outside to sit down, have a chat with friends in the sunshine or relax between classes. Need a quick and affordable bite? Spar is the go-to for more budget-friendly food. For bigger or warm meals, the canteen offers a variety of hot food options to keep you fueled throughout the day. If you're craving a coffee or a treat, Starbucks is also on campus, though it's a bit pricier. If you want to sit down with friends for a drink or a snack, the sports café offers a cozy and lively atmosphere, perfect to watch a football game or play some darts. And when you are looking for a quieter place, the library provides a resourceful and quiet environment to study and collaborate with other students.





SPORTS AT WINDESHEIM

Stay active and make the most of your student life at Windesheim's sports facilities. The campus offers a swimming pool for a refreshing workout, a climbing wall to test your limits, and a fully equipped gym for all your fitness needs. There is also a new tennis court and some yoga and pilates classes you can join. As a Windesheim student, you enjoy discounted rates!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



At Windesheim we have extra curricular teams where you have the opportunity to join a new group, gain hands-on experience, be active and develop new skills outside the classroom.

Here are some of our Extra curricular teams:

- Cycling club
- Dance club
- ESN Zwolle
- Chess tournament
- Decolonial futures lab
- JEF Zwolle
- Running club
- UNICEF Zwolle
- Zin in Zingen
- RGNRK
- Dutch classes
- Glocality
- Book club

What is FLAM?

There is also a study association called (Future leaders and management) FLAM. Join for a trip to a German christmas market or a camping weekend with bon fire and lots of fun with your friends. Or also join for game nights, food events, a pub quiz or a party. If you love to organise these events you can also join the committees and organise fun events together with your classmates.

07 DAY TRIP IDEAS

01 Amsterdam

First things first: You cannot study in the Netherlands without having been to Amsterdam. That's a rule. Since Amsterdam is an amazing city which everyone has to check for themselves, we won't include further information about it in here.

02 Harderwijk

Are you looking for some Caribbean flair in the Netherlands? Then you are exactly right at the beach in Harderwijk. Of course, it's not located at the real sea and the view still reveals Dutch components, but with a refreshing drink or tasty snack in the beach bar Walhalla, the holiday feeling definitely kicks in.

03 Utrecht

A city, which some prefer over Amsterdam since it is not as touristy and crowded, but still a great opportunity to go shopping, sit at the canals and to explore secret places. It just gives you a genuine and unadulterated impression of the Netherlands. With its charming canals, historic architecture and vibrant café culture, Utrecht is the perfect destination for a day trip.

SEE YOU IN ZWOLLE

We hope you love your Zwolle experience!

